

**Guaranteed Transfer Partnership Agreement
between
Virginia Commonwealth University
and
Reynolds Community College**

Purpose

This agreement lays the foundation for a partnership designed to facilitate the seamless transfer of *Reynolds Community College (REYNOLDS)* graduates to *Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)*. The agreement stipulates the criteria under which *REYNOLDS* graduates are guaranteed admission to *VCU* as outlined in the existing Guaranteed Admissions Agreements (GAA) between the Virginia Community College System (*VCCS*) and *VCU*, including the GAA for general admission, the GAA for engineering, the GAA for teacher preparation, and the GAA for nursing. The agreement further articulates terms that ensure all *REYNOLDS* courses described in a *REYNOLDS-VCU* Curricular Pathway transfer fully to meet degree requirements in a baccalaureate program at *VCU*. Appendix A provides a list of approved *REYNOLDS-VCU* Curricular Pathways via this agreement. This list will be updated as new pathways are approved. Curricular Pathways may be amended by mutual written agreement between *REYNOLDS* and *VCU* without need to restate this entire Guaranteed Transfer Partnership Agreement. Amendments to Curricular Pathways become effective no sooner than one year after mutual agreement to revise the Curricular Pathways.

Acceptance and Application of Credits

1. *REYNOLDS* and *VCU* will agree upon specific Curricular Pathways that include courses that apply fully to meeting lower division general education requirements in all *VCU* baccalaureate programs as well as to any specific *VCU* baccalaureate degree requirements defined in the Curricular Pathway.
2. Graduates of Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) programs at *REYNOLDS* whose agreed-upon Curricular Pathways are appended to and form part of this agreement are considered to have met all *VCU* lower-division general education requirements. Students who have met the transfer criteria for all Curricular Pathway courses shall be admitted to academic junior status at *VCU*.
3. Graduates of other *REYNOLDS* degree programs, e.g., Associate of Applied Science (AAS) programs in an agreed-upon Curricular Pathway may be required to take additional general education courses or additional courses within their major at *VCU*. Thus, graduates of such programs may need to complete more than 120 credits to complete the bachelor's degree at *VCU*. AAS courses will transfer fully if equivalent courses exist at *VCU*. Approved Curricular Pathways for such programs are considered part of this agreement and will be included in Appendix A.
4. Only coursework in which grades of C or higher have been earned at *REYNOLDS* will transfer to and may be applied toward the requirements of the partner program at *VCU*.
5. *VCU* will accept credit for prior learning such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge, and CLEP according to *VCU* policies in effect at the time of the application for admission at *VCU*. *VCU* will also evaluate courses/credits earned at other regionally accredited institutions. Students are responsible for providing transcripts from any other institutions attended and documentation for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge, CLEP, military credit, or other advanced standing credit applied toward

completion of their associate degree. The amount and type of credit awarded by **VCU** may differ from that awarded by **REYNOLDS**.

- 6 No distinction will be made by **VCU** regarding the transferability of college courses applicable to the transfer-oriented associate degrees that are taken through dual enrollment arrangements with high schools.
- 7 Completion of the associate degree through high school dual enrollment will not preclude the student from eligibility under this agreement. However, high school students enrolled in a dual enrollment program and who earn an associate degree concurrent with graduation from high school must follow the freshman applicant deadlines and indicate they are applying as a freshman when prompted on the university application.
- 8 **VCU** will maintain course equivalency information in its online Transfer Center website (<https://transfer.vcu.edu/>). It will alert **REYNOLDS** to proposed changes in course equivalency decisions at least one year before such changes are implemented. To be locked into the Curricular Pathway requirements at the time they begin taking courses at **REYNOLDS**, students must submit the online "Letter of Interest" form (see website link to Letter of Interest at: <https://apps.sem.vcu.edu/apply/letter-of-interest/>) after earning 15 credits at **REYNOLDS** for **VCU** to ensure that they are following the correct Curricular Pathway.
- 9 No fewer than 30 semester hours must be earned at **VCU** to be eligible for degree conferral. Thirty of the last 45 hours of credit required for the degree must be earned through instruction offered at **VCU**. In addition, 50 percent of the semester hours required for a major or minor (as defined by the department) must be taken at **VCU** and at least 45 upper-level credit hours (defined as 300- or 400-level courses) must be completed to earn a bachelor's degree at **VCU**.

Admissions Practices

1. **VCU** will accept applications from students who wish to transfer from **REYNOLDS** into any baccalaureate degree program.
2. Students transferring from **REYNOLDS** to specific **VCU** programs at the junior-level must meet the same prerequisites, grade point average (GPA) and other admission criteria, as other native or transfer students applying for entry to **VCU** programs.
3. As stipulated in VCU's Guaranteed Admission Agreement (GAA) with VCCS, **REYNOLDS** students who graduate with an Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) degree and have a **REYNOLDS** cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 are guaranteed admission to **VCU**. However, acceptance in some degree programs at VCU is competitive; thus guaranteed admission into VCU does not imply admission into these competitive programs without further acceptance by the school or department offering the program. Admission into the following baccalaureate programs at VCU is NOT guaranteed by the GAA:
 - All baccalaureate degree programs in the School of the Arts;
 - All baccalaureate degree programs in the College of Health Professions;
 - All baccalaureate degree programs in the College of Engineering (see separate GAA for engineering);
 - Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene;
 - Bachelor of Science in Nursing (see separate GAA for the RN to BSN program).

Separate GAA's govern the guaranteed admissions of students into the College of Engineering, teacher preparation programs, and the RN to BS in Nursing degree program. A complete list of GAA's governing the admission of community college students to **VCU** is located on the Transfer Center website (<https://transfer.vcu.edu/>).

4. **VCU** will consider and average cumulative GPAs from all institutions attended. Only courses completed will be used in the calculation of a GPA average for admission purposes; however, attempts must be considered for financial aid purposes. Trends in academic performance will be considered.
5. **REYNOLDS** graduates admitted as transfer students under this agreement will be considered juniors for purposes of scholarship eligibility, housing, and priority registration. Students who complete a **REYNOLDS** associate degree while still in high school and apply to **VCU** as freshmen applicants will be considered as first-year students for housing, scholarship, new student orientation and data tracking purposes.
6. To be eligible for admission to **VCU**, students must meet the current requirements for legal status and any other non-academic requirements stated in the **VCU** catalog. **VCU** reserves the right to deny admission to students who have felony convictions as well as students who have been academically or non-academically suspended from previous institutions.

Responsibilities

Joint responsibilities

1. The agreement, articulated Curricular Pathways, and relevant transfer course equivalencies will be reviewed biennially by **VCU** and **REYNOLDS**. Each institution will designate an individual to monitor this agreement and to coordinate meetings designed to maintain inter-institutional articulation. In addition, each institution will identify one person to serve as the main contact for each pathway program.
2. A **REYNOLDS-VCU** inter-institutional leadership team will be appointed to plan joint initiatives and to review transfer success. This team will identify faculty to collaborate on developing Curricular Pathways.
3. **REYNOLDS** and **VCU** agree to collaborate on a reverse transfer credit protocol enabling **REYNOLDS** students who transfer to **VCU** before completing an associate's degree to be awarded an Associate's degree from **REYNOLDS**, using credit earned at **VCU**, if they satisfactorily complete the appropriate coursework.
4. **VCU** will provide **REYNOLDS** with aggregate reports of enrolled **REYNOLDS** transfer students, their majors and academic performance when 10 or more are enrolled in any given year. Pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), **VCU** hereby designates **REYNOLDS** as a school official with a legitimate educational interest in this transfer data for the purpose of implementing this agreement. Accordingly, **REYNOLDS** agrees to maintain this data confidentially, not to disclose it unless authorized by **VCU** or otherwise in compliance with FERPA, to use the transfer data only for the purpose of implementing this agreement, including to improve student preparation for transfer, and to report to **VCU** its intended improvements.

Responsibilities of **REYNOLDS**:

1. Notify students of transfer opportunities to **VCU** under this Guaranteed Transfer Partnership Agreement and promote **VCU** as a Guaranteed Transfer Partner.
2. Provide space (e.g., in a campus advising center) for a **VCU** representative. In addition, **VCU** will be invited to attend **REYNOLDS** transfer fairs.
3. Provide academic advising services to assist **REYNOLDS** students in selecting the appropriate Curricular Pathway to **VCU** and choosing courses that will best prepare them for their intended major at **VCU**. **REYNOLDS** will also refer students to **VCU's** Major Maps for additional advice on how to prepare for a successful transition to **VCU**.

4. Host **REYNOLDS** campus visits from **VCU** advising representatives at least once per semester to meet with prospective **VCU** students and **REYNOLDS** advisors.
5. Provide **VCU** with a summary of research findings and actions taken based on data supplied by **VCU** on transfer student performance.

Responsibilities of **VCU**:

1. Disseminate accurate information to prospective transfer students from **REYNOLDS** regarding the general conditions of the Guaranteed Transfer Partnership Agreement and the details of the Curricular Pathways.
2. Provide academic advising services to prospective students from **REYNOLDS** (coordinated through the VCU Transfer Center).
3. Host **VCU** campus visits from **REYNOLDS** faculty and advisors at least once per year.

Amendments and Term of Effect

The Curricular Pathway in effect at the time a student first enrolls at **REYNOLDS** will be honored by **VCU** if the student submits a "*Letter of Interest*" form (see website link to Letter of Interest at: <https://apps.sem.vcu.edu/apply/letter-of-interest/>), completes an AA or AS degree, and successfully transfers to **VCU** within 4 years of that first enrollment at **REYNOLDS**.

This agreement may be amended, as needed, for specific program articulation without affecting the currency of the master agreement. All course-by-course transfer guides may be amended as needed.

This master agreement will remain in effect until terminated by either party upon written notice to other party of an intention to terminate. Such notice will be effective only if given 180 days prior to the intended date of termination. In the event that this agreement is terminated, the terms of the agreement contained herein will remain in effect for the maximum of 2 years.

Michael Rao

12/17/18

Michael Rao, Ph.D. President
Virginia Commonwealth University

Date

Paula Pando

2/5/18 *PP*

Paula Pando, Ed.D. President
Reynolds Community College

Date

VCU REVIEWERS:



Inta Tolan, Senior Associate Vice Provost, Student Success

10.18.18

Date



Tomikia LeGrande, Vice Provost for Strategic Enrollment Management

11-7-18

Date



Deborah Noble-Triplett, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

11/19/2018

Date

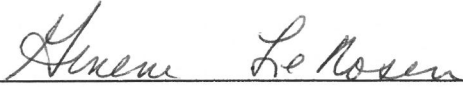


Gail Hackett, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

12/13/18

Date

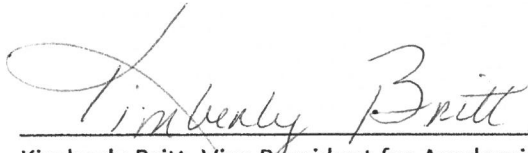
REYNOLDS REVIEWERS:



Gene LeRosen, Executive Vice President

1/10/19

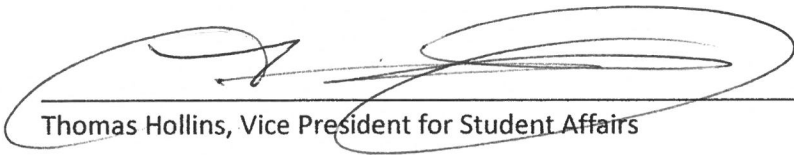
Date



Kimberly Britt, Vice President for Academic Affairs

1/10/19

Date



Thomas Hollins, Vice President for Student Affairs

1/10/19

Date